

COALVILLE URBAN DISTRICT



*Report
of the Medical Officer
of Health*

ANDREW HAMILTON,
M.B. Ch.B., D.P.H.

For the Year 1938



COALVILLE :
FLEET PRINTING WORKS.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health (part time) :

ANDREW HAMILTON, M.B. Ch.B. (Glas) D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

B. GREENWOOD, C.R.S.I., Inspector of Foods, &c.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

N. A. SHUTES, A.R.S.I.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health, for the Year 1938.

To the Coalville Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL,

I have the honour of submitting a Report respecting the health and sanitary condition of the Urban District for the year 1938.

The Report follows the instructions contained in a Circular dated the 25th October, 1938, from the Ministry of Health, respecting the contents and arrangements of the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health.

As far as possible, the order outlined in the Circular is followed.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres) 6,453.

Population (1931 census), 21,880.

Population, estimated to middle of 1938, 24,150.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938), according to
Rate Books, 6415.

Rateable value, £96,581.

Sum represented by penny rate £380.

The chief industries are coal-mining, brickmaking, engineering, elastic web and hosiery manufacture and quarrying stone for macadam, whilst a fair number are employed in agricultural work. The leading industry is coal-mining which does not appear to have any effect upon the general health, apart from an extra liability to accidental injuries.

Vital Statistics.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	348	188	160	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 14.6
	Illegitimate	6	3	3	
	Total	354	191	163	
Still Births	Legitimate	15	9	6	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 40.6
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	
Deaths		248	151	97	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 10.2

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal Sepsis ...	1	2.71
Other Puerperal Causes	0	0.00
Total ...	1	2.71

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.

All Infants per 1,000 live births	79
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	77.6
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	166.6

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	2
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	2
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	30

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area

Laboratory Facilities.

The arrangement made for Laboratory work continues as in previous years to act satisfactorily. Appreciation and thanks are due to the County Bacteriologist and his Assistants for valuable help during the year.

A statistical return of the work performed in the County Laboratory for the year 1938 is appended.

The total number of examinations was 11,466 and the following is a list of those for Coalville

Swabs for Diphtheria	..	...	240
Milk Examinations (Bacteriological)			133
Sputa for T.B.	...	...	29
Sewage and Water Analyses		...	85
Blood for Wasserman Test		...	6
Urine (General and Bacteriological)			42
Urine for T.B.	...	...	35
Widal Tests for Typhoid Fever		...	3
Faeces for B. Typhosus	...	...	2
Urine for B. Typhosus	...	...	2
Hair for Ringworm	...	...	1
Films for Gonococci	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	1
			<hr/> 581 <hr/>

In addition to the above, 65 samples of milk were examined by the Cambridge University Laboratory for Tubercle Bacilli.

Legislation in Force.

Adoptive Acts :—The following list gives the Adoptive Acts, bye-laws and regulations, adopted within the district, with the date of adoption :

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890	1892
Public Health Act (A) Act, 1890	1892
Public Health Act (A) Act, 1907	
Part II, Sections 53-54 of Part IV.,	
Sections 79, 80, 81, 85	
and 86 of Part VII., Parts VIII. and IX.,	
Section 95 of Part X.	1909
Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, 1899	
and Part III of the Housing and Town	
Planning Act, 1919	1923
Private Street Works Act	1892
Public Health Act, 1925, Part 2	1926
Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, Section 1	1934

Bye-laws and Regulations.

Slaughter-houses	1937
Common Lodging Houses, Nuisances	1894
Keeping of Animals	1894
Omnibuses	1921
Pleasure Grounds	1937
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	1926
New Streets and Buildings (revised edition)	1926
Cemeteries	1937

Hospitals.

The movement for the establishment of a Cottage Hospital is going ahead, sponsored by an enthusiastic and energetic Committee.

The arrangements and facilities formerly available for nursing in the home, ambulance services and clinic and treatment centres are unchanged.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

The public water supply for the district is obtained from a deep well sunk down to the New Sandstone measures, supplemented by a supply from the same source from Whitwick Colliery. There is also an auxiliary supply from Ellistown Colliery.

Early in the year the bulk supplies from Whitwick and Ellistown Collieries began to fall off, and during the rest of the year considerably increased pumping had to be carried out, but it was not necessary to apply any restrictions on consumption.

The quality of the public water supply, as regards the untreated water, is still below its high standard of a few years ago, and filtration and automatic chlorination are therefore continuously employed for the Whitwick and Ellistown Colliery supplies.

The original Broom Leys supply also appears to be falling off in quality, and a scheme was submitted to the Ministry of Health in December for the modernisation and electrification of the plant and the installation of automatic chlorination.

44 samples of town water supply were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year. It will be seen from the following results that B. Coli were present in 8 samples of untreated water.

Whitwick.		Ellistown.		Broom Leys.	Mixed supply from taps in the Urban District.
Raw.	Filtered and chlor.	Raw.	Filtered and chlor.		
1—	7—	3—	8—	10—	7—
1+		1+		6+	

Chemical analysis showed that the samples were satisfactory, except for the excessive hardness of the Whitwick and Ellistown supplies.

1875 yards of 4 inch water main have been laid during the year, the majority of this being for new building development. 650 yards, however, were laid as a further extension in the recently added Standard Hill area, but one portion of this area, in Meibourne Road, where private water supplies have been found to be unsatisfactory, is still outside the range of the public mains. It is hoped that it will be found possible in the near future to make the necessary extension to admit of these private supplies being discontinued.

My last Annual Report also mentioned the need for a public water supply to the Bardon Hill and Battleflat areas, and I understand that the scheme for the modernisation of the Broom Leys Pumping station, recently submitted to the Ministry of Health, includes the provision of a boosted water supply to these areas.

148 houses and 1 school, formerly drawing water from private wells, were connected to the town mains during the year, in addition to 223 newly erected houses.

46 samples of water from private wells were submitted for analysis, and of these only 5 were satisfactory. 25 were unsatisfactory both chemically and bacteriologically, 9 chemically only, and 7 bacteriologically only. 41 private wells were closed during the year.

With one exception, the whole of the houses in the Highfields area are now connected to the public mains, and attention is now being directed to the Thringstone area, where private supplies have, generally, prove to be very unsatisfactory.

The amount of water pumped during 1931 was 189,052,000 gallons, an increase of 17,020,000 gallons on the amount pumped during 1937.

Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year the whole of the Thringstone area has been sewered, a total length of 1959 lineal yards having been laid. This has allowed of several small and unsatisfactory outfall works in this area being dispensed with. A number of properties in this area have already been connected to the new sewer where the private drainage systems were found to be satisfactory. There are, however, a considerable number where the whole of the private drains will need relaying or reconstructing before connection to the new sewer is made.

The New Swannington, Thornborough and Bardon Hill areas have not yet been dealt with, but work in the New Swannington and Thornborough area is now proceeding and will be completed shortly.

Reference to the alleged pollution of the Hugglescote brook by the effluent from Bardon Hill outfall works is referred to under the next heading. These works are in very unsatisfactory condition and, failing the early commencement of the Bardon Sewerage scheme, which will enable the works to be scrapped, should receive attention at an early date.

No extensions have been made to either of the disposal works at Kelham Bridge and Snarrows, but it is proposed to instal flow recorders in the near future.

An extension of 67 yards of sewer was made in Ibstock Road, Ellistown, this being the full extent which is possible in this direction.

18 houses have been redrained and 101 have had extensions or alterations to existing drains.

Rivers and Steams.

Complaints as to the pollution of the Hugglescote brook by the effluent from the Bardon Hill sewage works have been received during the year from a farmer who complained that milk from cattle having access to the brook was ropy and foul-smelling. Investigations were made on various occasions, and samples of the brook water, both above and below the sewage outfall works, and also from small tributaries of the brook, were submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination. The chemical analysis proved to be quite satisfactory, but 'ropy' organisms were found in every sample of water submitted for bacteriological examination. At a later date further investigations were made and the brook followed almost to its source in an

effort to trace the point of entry of the organisms. All the samples taken on this occasion, both above and below the outfall works, gave negative results, apparently due to the cleansing action of the preceding heavy snow and rainfall.

It is extremely unlikely that the discharge of this effluent into the brook is causing the conditions complained of, as the organisms responsible for 'ropiness' are commonly found in uncontrolled water supplies and may gain admittance to the milk by the cows wading in water, thus soiling the udders. Equally, if dairy utensils were rinsed in such water, or if it were used for washing udders, the milk may become infected.

Whatever relation these outfall works may bear to the condition of this brook it is, however, desirable to remove any possible source of pollution and I have recommended, under the previous heading, that early attention should be given to this matter.

Closet Accomodation.

The closet accommodation in the district at the end of 1938 was as follows :—

Water closets	...	6,206
Privies with fixed receptacles		300
Privies with moveable receptacle		226

During the year 78 privies with fixed receptacles and 43 with moveable receptacles were abolished and 119 W.C's provided in lieu thereof. New constructional work accounted for a further addition of 263 water closets. Demolitions accounted for the abolition of 3 W.C's.

The 'numbers of privies (fixed and moveable) abolished during the preceding 5 years are :—

1933	...	105
1934	...	224
1935	...	210
1936	...	84
1937	..	109

With two exceptions, the whole of the houses in the Highfields and Standard Hill area where the sewer is available now have water closets, and conversions in the Thringstone area, which has been sewered during the year, are now proceeding.

Public Cleansing.

The cleansing of the District, which is under the control of your Surveyor, continues to be carried out efficiently, the whole of the work being done by the Council, with the exception that the cleansing of cesspools is not undertaken except on payment and at the request of the owner or occupier of the premises.

Dustbins are emptied weekly, during the day, and the very few remaining dry ashpits every 4–5 weeks, also during the day, the refuse from these being disposed of by tipping at various tips operated on the “controlled” system.

Pail closets are emptied weekly and privy-midens every 5–6 weeks, these conveniences all being cleansed between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. and the refuse disposed of on agricultural land in suitable positions.

The collection of trade refuse has been reorganised during the year to meet the provisions of Section 73 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and the following charges are now in operation :—

2/6 per cart load.

5/- per lorry load.

Trade or business premises with a Rateable value up to £75—One bin per week free, and additional bins at twopence per bin.

Trade or business premises with a Rateable value exceeding £75—Two bins per week free, and additional bins at twopence per bin.

Under Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, the use of “standard pattern” dustbins has now been in operation for twelve months. Some little difficulty was experienced at the outset, but the advantages of the use of a standard type is beginning to be appreciated and their provision is now almost a normal procedure. A few cases have arisen, however, where in spite of definite requests for standard bins, cheap non-standard receptacles have been provided, and it will perhaps be necessary for your Council, in such cases, to use the powers conferred by the above Act.

Under the same Section notices were served on owners concerned calling for the abolition of dry ashpits, and 151 of these were abolished during the year and dustbins provided. In three of these cases ashpits were abolished and standard bins provided by your Council on the default of the owners, who all paid the expenses incurred without recourse to legal proceedings.

The number of the various receptacles in use at the end of the year were :—

Dustbins	6,162
Dry Ashpits	16
Middens	217

During the year the amount of refuse collected and disposed of was :—

Pail and midden refuse	601 loads
Dustbin and dry ashpit refuse	4,301 loads
Market refuse	55 loads

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The particulars given under this heading are for all purposes including particulars given elsewhere in this report.

Total No. of complaints received 126

Total No. of Defects or Nuisances discovered 472

Nature of Inspections :—

	INSPECTIONS.	REVISITS
Dwelling Houses (all purposes)	197	252
Tents, Vans, etc.	13	6
Slaughter Houses Meat Premises	935 103	
Food Premises	105	7
Dairies and Cowsheds	114	36
Offensive Trades	Nil.	Nil.
Animal Keeping	7	3
Workshops, etc.	42	
Shops	37	14
Other Premises + See page 12.	572	159
TOTAL	2125	477

± Made up as follows :—

Water supply	98	Swimming baths	6
San. Conveniences, etc.	225	Schools	19
C. L. Houses	12	Drains and drainage	109
Overcrowding (revisits)	159	Lic. premises, etc.	29
Market Stalls	47	Others	27

Premises disinfected after inf. diseases	251
Schools disinfected	2
Lots of bedding separately disinfected	7
Houses measured—overcrowding provisions.	881
Milk samples for bact. examination	92
Milk samples for T.B. examination	65
Water samples (submitted by S. Inspector)	46
Swimming baths water sample	1
Premises disinfested of bugs	9
Premises disinfested of cockroaches.	5
Visits re Infectious disease	214

NOTICES.

PRELIMINARY	HOUSING	OTHERS
Outstanding on 1st January	37	13
Issued during year	169	218
Complied with during year	166	200
Statutory action necessary	9	128
Outstanding 31st December	40	31

STATUTORY	HOUSING	OTHERS
Outstanding on 1st January	4	3
Issued during year	9	128
Complied with during year	4	120
Statutory action necessary	—	3
Outstanding 31st December	9	8

SUMMARY ACTION.

No. of Summones Issued	No. of convictions obtained
One—re overcrowding	One

Shops and Offices.

37 inspections were made during the year, necessitating 14 re-visits. Informal action was taken as below :—

Sanitary conveniences.	Defects 6
	Remedied 3
Temperature.	Defects 5
	Remedied 5
Ventilation	Defects 3
	Remedied 3

Camping Sites.

There are no camping sites (holiday camps and the like) in use in this area.

Three small sites, which were licensed during the year, are merely used by the owners for sheds for their personal living accommodation.

The owner of a fourth site, which has normally been regularly used for accommodating the caravans of hawkers, gypsies, etc., for irregular intervals, was refused a licence on the grounds of the general unsuitability of the site and lack of proper sanitary facilities and amenities.

It has been necessary to require the immediate removal of vans which have been temporarily 'parked' on unlicensed sites under such conditions as would have led to nuisance being caused.

Smoke Abatement.

There are 41 factory and works chimneys in the area, but it has been unnecessary to take any but informal action during the year.

The nuisance from burning pit banks, noted in my last report, still continues unabated, and is a serious source of atmospheric pollution.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

The are no privately owned swimming baths in the area.

The Public Swimming Baths are under the control of the Council's Surveyor and a resident Superintendent. Water is supplied from the town mains, filtered and chlorinated, being completely turned over every $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

276 tests were carried out for chlorination and the same number for alkalinity.

Six inspections of the swimming baths were made and one sample of water taken for bacteriological examination. Coliform organisms were absent and cultures for plate count enumeration sterile.

The Swimming baths are closed from October to April.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Particulars of action taken :—

No. of Council Houses infested	2
No. of other dwelling houses found infested	7
No. of houses disinfested	9

Methods employed for disinfestation

The two Council houses were treated with Hydrogen Cyanide. The other, privately owned, houses, being portions of blocks of property, were sprayed with insecticide after removal of skirtings etc., and afterwards fumigated with sulphur blocks.

Carried out by Local Authority	7
Carried out by Contract	2

Name of the fumigant and/or insecticide used

Hydrogen Cyanide.
Zaldecide.
Solution D.

Methods employed for ensuring the Tenants belongings are free from vermin before removal to Council Houses.

All effects of tenants for transfer to Council houses are now treated with hydrogen cyanide by a specialist firm, in vans built for the purpose. During the year 43 households were dealt with in this way.

Measures taken of supervision or education of Tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation.

No special measures taken except where infestation has been dealt with. In these cases repeated visits are made and further treatment given if necessary, together with full information as precautions to be taken to avoid re-infestation.

5 houses were also treated for infestations of cockroaches.

Schools.

The sanitary condition of the schools in the area is generally satisfactory with one or two exceptions, the conditions at these being noted in my last report.

Although the town water supply is now available at Thringstone, the Thringstone C.E. and Thringstone Infants' Schools are not yet provided with a water supply of any kind. The sanitary conveniences are of the conservancy type.

The Bardon Hill C.E. Schools have a private (piped) water supply, no town supply yet being available. The sanitary conveniences here, also, are of the conservancy type.

It has not been necessary to resort to school closure on account of infectious disease. All contacts of school age are excluded from school for varying periods, in accordance with the Memo. on Exclusion from School.

Two schools were disinfected during the year.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, and Factories Act, 1937.

42 inspections of factories and workshops were made during the year.

Requirements as to cleansing and limewashing were carried out except in one case where an informal notice was issued and had the desired effect.

One bakehouse was found to be without sanitary convenience, and at another bakehouse the exhaust from the engine was found to be discharging into the room used as a flour store. This was immediately remedied.

Lists were submitted in respect of five outworkers, whose premises were found to be satisfactory.

Form 572

Report on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, and the Factorties Act, 1937 (which superseded the Act of 1901 on the 1st July, 1938)

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provision as to health.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises. (1)	Inspections. (2)	Numbers of	
		Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories with mechanical power	11	1	
Factories without mechanical power	31	1	
* Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises.)			
* Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories. Total	42	2	

2—DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1)	1	1		
Overcrowding (S. 2)				
Unreasonable temperature (S. 4)				
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)				
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)				
Sanitary conveniences (S. 7)				
insufficient	1			
unsuitable or defective				
not separate for sexes				
Other Offences (Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)				
TOTAL	2	1		

Housing—Year Ending 31st December, 1938.

Number of New Houses Erected during the Year:—

(a) Total	224
(i) By Local Authority	77
(ii) By other bodies and persons	147

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year :

(1) a.	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	197
b.	Number of inspections made for the purpose	197
(2) a.	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above,) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	39
b.	Number of inspections made for the purpose	39
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	9
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	30

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	166
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

(A)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	9
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By Owners	11
(b)	Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

(B)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	9
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By Owners	1
(b)	Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

(C)—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	16
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	11

(D)—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4. Housing Act 1936, Part IV. Overcrowding.

(a) (i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	63
(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	76
(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	490
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	18
(c) (i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	94
(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	784

- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding None known
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report (see below)

One prosecution was instituted in a case where overcrowding had been permitted after survey and the issue of the certificate stating the "permitted number." A conviction was recorded and a fine imposed.

The completion of the 50 houses for the abatement of overcrowding has considerably relieved the position, as, in addition to being able to deal with all the worst cases, it has been possible to utilise the vacated houses, in a number of instances, for the re-housing of smaller overcrowded families.

There is now very little overcrowding, particularly on the "penal" standard, in the houses controlled by your Authority.

The 94 cases of overcrowding relieved during the year are made up as follows:—

By transfer to Council Houses,	65
„ removal to larger privately owned houses,	11
„ removal of sub-tenants,	5
„ marriage and removal of members of family,	5
„ deaths of members of family,	6
„ transfer of children to relatives.	2
	<hr/> 94 <hr/>

Of the 18 new cases reported during the year, the majority were due to children having attained the age of 10 years

As mentioned in my last report, a housing survey of the transferred areas has been completed, and, as a consequence, 10 Clearance Orders, involving 38 houses, were made by your Authority in the Thringstone Area, and 1 Clearance Order, involving 6 houses, in the Whitwick Area.

The areas dealt with were:—

Area	No.		Houses	Persons
	1	Brookside, Thringstone,	5	19
"	2	Brook Lane, "	2	3
"	3	" " "	6	26
"	4	Dust Hill, "	2	3
"	5	The Green, "	3	7
"	6	Southend, "	2	6
"	7	Drury Lane, "	4	18
"	8	Main Street, "	8	36
"	9	Fox Yard, "	2	8
"	10	Henson's Lane, "	4	17
"	11	North Street, Whitwick.	6	17
			<hr/> 44	<hr/> 160

Objections were made by certain owners and a Public Inquiry was held on the 14th September, 1938. As a result the Ministry of Health confirmed the Orders respecting 42 of these houses. One house in the Drury Lane area was excluded on account of its being already the subject of a Demolition Order made by the Ashby R. D. C. The second house to be excluded was in the Main Street area. The Minister directed that compensation should be payable as respects two houses on which the orders were confirmed. This will amount to the sum of about £18.

In addition to the above, Demolition Orders were made on 16 individually unfit houses as follows:—

6, Charnwood Street,	1
Main Street, Thringstone, (Holland)	1
Drury Lane, " (Knapp)	1
Main Street, " (Barlow)	1
Kirby's Yard, "	1
Lily Bank "	2
Irish Hill Cottages, Coalville,	2
165, 167, Crescent Road, Hugglescote,	2
3, Holm's Court, "	1
66, Station Road, "	1
31, 33, 35, " "	3

Section E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

There were on the Register at the end of 1938:—

Cowkeepers,	50
Retail Purveyors,	95

I. Milk Production.

All premises used for the production of milk within the Urban area have been inspected during the year, the number of inspections made being 62.

Contraventions.

	Found.	Removed.
Cleansing	7	4
Structural alterations,	9	5
Other,	9	5

In addition to the action set out above, various alterations, improvements or repairs have been carried out, involving the laying of new concrete floors, improvement in lighting and ventilation, the provision of satisfactory dairies or cooling rooms, improvements to, or re-modelling of existing drainage systems, and the provision of improved utensils and sterilising equipment.

The last mentioned item plays an important part in clean milk production, and although some progress is being made, it is to be regretted that the provision of low-pressure steam sterilising equipment, which can now be installed at very moderate cost, lags behind other improvements, and is only installed, as a rule, when a Cowkeeper is seeking enrolment as an Accredited Milk producer.

Of the 50 Producers in the Area, only 6 are on the Accredited Roll.

II. Milk Distribution.

52 inspections of retailers' premises have been made during the year, and in this connection it should be noted that 19 of the 95 retailers sell sterilised milk, from shops, in bottles, as received, 20 bring in milk from outside areas and have no premises in this district, and that 36 are producer-retailers.

The number of contraventions found was 10, and of these 5 were remedied.

III. Milk Samples.

92 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination during the year, as follows:—

	No.	Satisfactory.	Un-satisfactory.
Pasteurised	5	5	—
Accredited	1	1	—
Sterilised	1	1	—
Non-designated	85	69	12 grade 2 4 .. 3
	92	76	16

Of the 16 unsatisfactory non-designated milk samples:—

4 were unsatisfactory as regards the Methylene Blue test and the presence of B. Coli in two or three tubes.

5 were unsatisfactory owing to the presence of B. Coli: Methylene Blue test satisfactory.

7 were unsatisfactory to M. Blue test, B. Coli absent.

The Standard of examination adopted is that laid down by the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, for Accredited Milk.

Producers and retailers are notified of the result of sampling: later, visits are made to premises and advice and assistance given. 5 of the unsatisfactory samples were produced outside this area, two being from one producer.

Repeat samples were taken in three cases and proved satisfactory. In the remaining case, the producer having an unsatisfactory record, the Sanitary Inspector of the District concerned was notified and now has the matter in hand. Of the other 11 unsatisfactory samples, one was a repeat sample and one a check sample sent to the Midland Agricultural College. Repeat samples were taken in three of the remaining cases and proved satisfactory.

65 samples of milk were submitted for examination for T. B. 59 were negative and 6 positive. As a result, six cows were slaughtered at five farms. In the remaining case three cows had been disposed of between the date of the sample and the receipt of the result, and, despite all efforts, could not be traced. A sample from the remaining cows at this farm was negative.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

The following licenses were granted during the year :—

5 to retail "Tuberculin Tested" Milk.

1 „ „ "Pasteurised" Milk.

Meat and Other Foods.

935 inspections of meat were made during the year, including Sundays and holidays, all these being at the time of slaughter or immediately afterwards.

With the exception of the meat prepared by the Co-operative Society, a portion of which is sent to Branch shops in neighbouring areas, almost the whole of the meat is consumed in this area.

The Regulations for the control of slaughter and distribution have again worked smoothly with the exception of odd cases of failure to notify disease. One Butcher was interviewed by the Health Committee for this breach and for his action in "stripping" the carcase prior to inspection. As it was a first offence he was warned of the consequence of repetition.

Investigations have been carried out regarding three cases of diseased animals which were alleged to have been "reactors" to the Tuberculin Test, and which were purchased in open market. In two of these cases the evidence obtained was insufficient to substantiate the complaint, but in the third case the cow was traced back to an "accredited" dairy farm in the vicinity.

Carcases inspected and condemned.

The following table sets out the results of meat inspections :—

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed (if known) (from butchers' est.)	900	360	40	2560	2950	6810
Number inspected	829	305	31	2468	2863	6496
All Diseases except Tuberculosis						Total weight in lbs.
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	2	3	696
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	16	7	—	3	1	468
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	1.93	2.29	Nil	0.20	0.14	—
Tuberculosis Only						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	1	—	—	1	1764
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	1	5	—	—	119	2334
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	0.24	2.0	Nil	Nil	4.19	—

All condemned meat is disposed of at one or other of the Council's "controlled" tips, and is collected from the Slaughter-Houses immediately after inspection.

Efforts have been made to dispose of this to a waste utilisation plant, but apparently the cost of transport is such as to make the arrangement a very uneconomic proposition.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

At the end of the year there were eight registered and nine licensed Slaughter-houses in the area, and 103 inspections were made other than when slaughtering was in progress.

The accommodation at the Co-operative Society's premises became inadequate, and an additional building for the slaughter of sheep was provided, after representations by this Office.

Two Slaughter-houses have been re-drained following recurrent blockages; two cases of failure to cleanse premises and utensils have been dealt with; and one case of lack of proper offal and manure receptacles remedied.

MEAT SHOPS, STORES, MARKETS, etc.

The food exposed for sale in the weekly open market has been inspected on 47 occasions.

29 inspections of meat shops and stores, and 76 of places where food, other than meat, is kept or prepared for sale, were made.

7 contraventions, relating to cleansing and utensils, were dealt with.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS 1924

No scheme of meat marking under Part 3. of the Regulations is in force.

(c) ADULTERATIONS, etc.

The County Council administer these Acts and Regulations.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of food.

Apart from the bacteriological examination of milk carried out in the County Council's Laboratory, and those for Tuberculosis carried out by the Institute of Animal Pathology, Cambridge University, no food was examined at the instance of this Authority.

(e) NUTRITION.

Leaflets on various aspects of this subject are distributed at intervals.

(f) SHELL FISH (MOLLUSCAN).

There are no shell-fish beds or layings in this Area.

Ward and Sex Distribution of Infectious Diseases, 1938

Disease.	Total	Central		North		N. East		South		S. East		West	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever	156	11	15	6	8	20	29	8	13	17	17	7	5
Diphtheria	80	8	9		4	8	10	6	1	1	5	11	17
Pneumonia	32	3	1	3	1	5	2	3	2	1	3	6	2
Erysipelas	19		2	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	4		2
Ophthalmia Neon	2		1			1							
Puerperal Pyrexia	2		1										
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1						1						
Totals		22	29	10	14	35	46	18	17	22	29	24	26
Respiratory Tuberculosis	9	1	1			1	1		2		2	1	1
Non-Respiratory T.B.	10					2	2			2	1	1	2

DIPHTHERIA.

This disease was prevalent throughout the year. Every Ward was affected, but the Central, North-East, and West Wards suffered most. There was a very considerable increase in the incidence, 80 cases being notified as compared with 30 for the previous year. Four deaths occurred.

In February the estimated cost of a scheme of immunisation was submitted to the Council, but the scheme was shelved on account of the expense involved.

The public are fully aware of the dangers of Diphtheria and there is considerable interest amongst parents in the possibilities of immunisation. A few children are being immunised at the parents' expense, but many parents feel that as children in other parts of the County have been so treated at the public expense, the same privilege should be available here.

Although help is available from the County Health Authorities in times of epidemic, none is apparently available in so-called normal times, but I must point out that there is considerable difference of opinion as to what constitutes an epidemic. In my view an outbreak, although limited to a definite section of a community, is not necessarily not an epidemic in other words it is not an essential that the whole of the area under an Authority's control must be affected before a state of epidemic can be said to exist.

In the early winter—November—I became so concerned about the position that I submitted to you a report which is repeated here. As a general practitioner and a Public Health Official I feel that my experience of this disease is worth attention.

In private practice one sees how virulent an attack of diphtheria may be, how serious and sometimes calamitous the results may be, and how heartrending the whole procedure may be to parents and relatives of the victims. There is no room for doubt in my mind that anyone who has witnessed the tragedies of diphtheria at first hand can fail to be an advocate of immunisation at any cost.

The following is the report which was submitted to you on 29th November, 1938:—

“As you are aware, the desirability of immunising children against diphtheria has been mentioned in several of my recent Annual Reports. In February of this year the estimated cost of a scheme for this area was submitted to the Council, but no steps were taken to put it into effect on account of the expense involved.”

I submit the following figures for your consideration. Since January 1st, 1934, until this date, 523 cases of infectious disease have been removed to hospital. The total number of cases of diphtheria notified in that period is 189, and of those 169 have been removed to hospital. The total cost of maintaining those 523 patients in hospital is £1,038: at a conservative estimate the 169 cases of diphtheria removed would account for half of that sum, i.e. in the last five years isolation in hospital of Diphtheria patients has cost this Council £500.

As no case of Diphtheria was treated in hospital during the first year of the period under review, this £500 has actually been expended in four years. Those figures, of course, do not take into consideration the usual overhead charges.

So far as an actual scheme is concerned, having worked out details, I considered it wise to call a Meeting of all the doctors in the district for a round table discussion. This Meeting was held on Friday last the attendance was good. I felt that a useful purpose was served, and I am indebted to them for several helpful suggestions.

In brief, my suggestions are:—

Leaflets giving details of immunisation would be issued to parents through the schools—for this purpose permission of the Education Committee would be required, but would probably be readily forthcoming. Supplies of leaflets would also be given to individual Doctors, and would also be available from this Office. Public advertisement of the facilities would be advisable.

The leaflet would briefly explain immunisation. A form of request for the treatment would be attached to safeguard the doctors and the Authority, and no patient would be immunised under the scheme unless this form was signed by the parent or guardian. A second detachable form would also be attached to facilitate the keeping of records by the doctors.

The parent would take the form of request to the doctor whom he wished to perform the operation, and the doctor would make his own arrangements with the parent as to when and where it would be carried out.

Forms, it is suggested, would be distributed at the beginning of each school term, in the hope that children starting school who had not yet been immunised, might get the benefit of the scheme.

It is suggested that the method to be adopted be left to the preference of the individual practitioner,—some prefer the 2-shot and others the 3-shot method, but all have agreed that the fee should be 5/- per patient, irrespective of method, the material to be supplied by the Council.

The number of children between 1—14 years, the suggested ages, in the district is about 6000. At 5/- per patient 1000 children could be immunised for about £300. As probably about 30 per cent. would avail themselves of the scheme, 2000 children would probably be done at a cost of about £600, and after the initial outlay the annual outlay would probably be small.

If this sum is considered too great an expense, in the belief that half a loaf is better than none, children between one and 10 years might be immunised. There are approximately 4000 children in that group in the district, so that if 30 per cent. come into the scheme, £375 to £400 would be required. If this were adopted it would mean that the immunisation of children over 10 would be paid for by the parents, but I would suggest that material be supplied free by the Council.

According to the report of the County M.O.H. for 1937, an analysis of 824 consecutive notifications of Diphtheria shows the following age incidence :—

0—2 years	1.58 per cent.
2—5 "	11.65 "
5—10 "	41.63 "
10—15 "	22.57 "
Over 15 "	22.57 "

So that 0—10 accounts for 54.86 per cent. of all cases,—10—15 years for 22.57 per cent. Our experience in this district is that the 10—15 age group is affected as frequently as the lower age group.

I recommend that if facilities are offered they should be available for children from 1—14 years. If you decide to bring in only the 1—10 groups you must do so fully realising that this leaves much to be desired, but is better than nothing at all.

If either of those suggestions meets with your approval it would be necessary to apply to the Minister under Sec. 177, Public Health Act, 1936, for permission to provide same."

As a result of this Report, it was decided to ascertain the response with which such a scheme would be likely to meet. As suggested leaflets were issued through the schools to all parents. I have here to record my grateful thanks to the head-teachers for so ably placing facilities at our disposal and for the help so readily given.

It was requested that forms of request for the treatment should be returned by December. Although full details are not available for this report, it soon became obvious that the response was definitely greater than had been estimated. As soon as the information given on those forms of request can be collated, particulars will be submitted to you for your consideration.

Whether this results in a scheme coming into force or not, one is left with no doubt at all about there being a public demand for one.

The monthly notifications were as follows :

	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Pneu- monias	Ery- sipelas	Oph. Neon	Puer. Py'xia	C.S.F.
January	19	7	9	1		1	
February	22	2	4	4			
March	22	4	4	4			
April	14	1	4	3			
May	14	7	3	1			
June	13	4	1				
July	11	3		1			
August	11	4	3	3			
September	10	6	2		1		
October	7	4	1		1	1	1
November	7	23		1			
December	6	15	1	1			
Totals	156	80	32	19	2	2	1

Diphtheria.

Case rate for England & Wales per 1,000 population	1.58
„ „ „ Coalville U. District „ „	3.3

Tuberculosis.

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and all deaths from the disease during the year.

Age period	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1								
1—5				1				
5—15			2	1				1
15—25		3	1	1		2		
25—35		2		2	1	1		
35—45		1	1					
45—55	1	1			1			
55—65	1		1					
65 & up								
Total	2	7	5	5	2	3		1

Notification is satisfactory.

Disinfection.

The Council has a Bacterol disinfectant available for disinfection of infected bedding, clothing, etc.

Infantile Mortality.

During 1938, 28 deaths occurred amongst infants under 1 year. This gives a rate of 79 per 1,000 live births registered compared with a rate of 54 for 1937, 79 for 1936 and 77 for 1935.

Deaths were attributed to the following causes ; Ward and Sex distribution.

Cause of Death.	Total	Central		North		N. East		South		S. East		West	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Prematurity and	21	1		2	3	7		2		2		2	2
Congenital Debility	2							1				1	
Gastro-Enteritis	3			1					1			1	
Broncho-Pneumonia	1						1						
Cerebro Spinal Fever													
Mastoiditis	1											1	
Totals	28	1		3	3	7	1	3	1	2		5	2

**Table Showing Causes and
Sex Distribution of Deaths
in 1938**

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	Ttl	M.	F.
All Causes	248	151	97
Typhoid Fever			
Measles	2	1	1
Diphtheria	4	1	3
Influenza	3	2	1
Whooping Cough			
Scarlet Fever			
Smallpox			
Enc. Lethargica			
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	
Respiratory Tuberculosis	5	2	3
Other T.B. Diseases	1		1
Syphilis	1		1
Cancer	30	18	12
Diabetes	6	2	4
Cerebral Haemorrhage	16	7	9
Heart Disease	55	38	17
Aneurism			
Other Circul. Diseases	10	6	4
Bronchitis	5	3	2
Pneumonia (All Forms)	10	6	4
Other Respiratory Diseases	4	3	1
Peptic Ulcer	3	2	1
Appendicitis	2	2	
Other Digestive Diseases	3	2	1
Diarrhoea (under 2)	2	2	
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	1	
Other Liver Diseases	1		1
Nephritis	5	3	2
Puerperal Sepsis	1		1
Accidents, etc., of Pregnancy			
Congenital Causes	21	16	5
Violence	15	11	4
Suicide	3	2	1
Senility	13	6	7
Other Defined Diseases	25	14	11



